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97818 McKinley Lane
Myrtle Point, OR 97458
October 26, 2007

BLM
Western Oregon Plan Revisions Office
333 SW 1st Avenue
Portland, OR 97208


Dear BLM:

The changes the BLM is contemplating under the Western Oregon Plan Revisions will unravel protections of the Northwest Forest Plan, and they will lead to water pollution, degraded habitat, and increased conflict and controversy. The Bush administration would place half of the public land that the BLM manages and most of its best old growth forests in "Timber management areas" to be clearcut every 80 years. That Bush administration's preferred alternative proposes to clearcut 110,000 acres of Oregon's old growth (120+ years) and build 1,000 miles of new logging roads every decade while creating over 100,000 miles of new Off Road Vehicle Emphasis Areas – all at the expense of roadless areas, threatening species, water quality and non motorized recreation. The proposal ignores the role these forests play in regulating our climate.

I would rather see federal land managers thin second growth forests, safeguard communities from wildfire, and protect what remains of our nation's old-growth forests. It is known that public forest lands are overgrown and in need of thinning, which provides wood to local mills, jobs, and improves conditions for fish and wildlife by keeping the logging out of the precious old-growth forests. Instead, your Western Oregon Plan Revision proposes to inflame the controversy by increasing old-growth clearcutting for a short term economic gain. The Western Oregon Plan Revision puts water quality at risk and would destroy some of Oregon's most special places. We should be protecting these national treasures instead.

I am disappointed that while public consensus for old growth protection and second growth thinning has never been stronger, the BLM is proposing to clearcut forests and turn complex ecosystems into tree plantations, which are susceptible to severe wildfire and diseases. I urge you to protect remaining old growth forests and roadless areas, focus management of BLM lands on areas already logged, and create job opportunities in restoration thinning projects that benefit watersheds and generate wood products. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Diane Follansbee

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